

R.F. Kennedy's Story On Cuba Investigated

Dirksen Seeks To Determine If Attorney General Gave 'All The Facts' On Invasion

By PETER J. KUMPA
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Jan. 22 — Senator Dirksen (R., Ill.), Senate minority leader, is conducting a preliminary investigation to see if the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy, is giving the "entire story" on the abortive Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961.

The Republican said today that if he and staff members of the Senate Republican Policy Committee find "enough," the whole matter could wind up in a major congressional investigation, probably conducted by the Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

"Never Considered"

Dirksen's interest springs from recent denials made by the Attorney General that President Kennedy ever withdrew United States air cover from the invading Cubans.

"There was never any plan to have United States air cover," said the Attorney General. "I mean it was never suggested by the military. It was never considered."

The Attorney General was on a special Presidential committee with General Maxwell Taylor and Allen Dulles, former CIA direc-

tor, that investigated the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Senator Goldwater (R., Ariz.) today repeated charges that the Attorney General was engaging in "one of the most deliberate and flagrant uses of the 'news management' devices yet attempted by the Kennedy Administration."

To avoid what he called "a massive readjustment of facts," Goldwater, a persistent and harsh critic of the President's Cuba policies, demanded that every official report bearing on the invasion be made public.

Demands "Full Airing"

Goldwater demanded "a full airing" of the situation.

Dirksen said the Goldwater accusations were new to him.

"Rather than pass judgment, I am checking with people who should know," the GOP minority leader said. "See, I'm the careful type."

He disclosed the investigation at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Senate Republican Policy Committee. There was discussion of his plan and no dissent, he said. The GOP leader insisted his in-

terest was to make sure that history would accurately record the invasion. Perhaps, he said, a postscript was needed.

"I'm pursuing it from that high ground," said Dirksen, denying he had political motivation. "The country and the people ought to know the facts — all the facts."

Dirksen said he had not thought of talking to any of the ransomed Cuban invaders. "I may go and see some — or get some of them up here," he said.

Getting funds for doing this, he said, would be like "rolling off a log."

Neither did Dirksen say whether he planned to talk to Allen Dulles or former Admiral Arleigh Burke.

"Unfinished Business"

Asked if such an investigation was unusual for a policy committee, Dirksen replied:

"I must remind you that Cuba is very much unfinished business."

Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, commented that the Dirksen investigation "has a very strong partisan aura."

Fulbright's committee was twice briefed by Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, recently, with Cuba holding the spotlight in both instances.

Point Of Contention

The point of contention in the Bay of Pigs story seems to be whether American air cover was planned and withdrawn.

President Kennedy has taken full responsibility for the invasion's failure although the planning was done by the Central Intelligence Agency and approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dirksen today conceded that the planning for the invasion began during the Eisenhower Administration.

On the air cover, the Attorney General had this to say in a "United States News and World Report" interview when asked if there was to be any air support from Central America.

"That is correct—and that was not disturbed. All of the planes that were supposed to be utilized were utilized—all in the planning. . . . The air cover at the beaches proved definitely inadequate but not because of some last-minute decision by the President."

The Attorney General insisted that there was no United States air cover planned or withdrawn.